

Message Text

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43

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: GOP CRACKS DOWN ON FAR LEFT TERRORISTS

1. INTERIOR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED JUNE 19 CHARGED THE FAR LEFT VANGUARDIA REVOLUCIONARIE (VR) WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEVERAL TERRORIST ACTS INCLUDING AN APRIL 10 ARMED CLASH WITH THE GUARDIA CIVIL AT LIMA WATER WORKS, NOVEMBER 1974 SEARS BOMBING, MARCH 1975 ASSULT ON GUARD AT PANAMANIAN EMBASSY, AND VARIOUS LAND INVASIONS. NINE ALLEGED VR ACTIVISTS, NOT INCLUDING TOP LEADERS RICARDO LETTS OR ANDRES LUNA, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED UNDER PROVISIONS OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

2. IN ITS COMMUNIQUE, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY NOTED THAT THE POLICE FORCES, "COMPLYING WITH THEIR MISSION TO PRESERVE PUBLIC ORDER AND ENSURE RESPECT FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY, HAVE INTERVENED AND WILL INTERVENE WITH FULL SUPPORT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT AGAINST THOSE WHO FOMENT STRIFE." COMMUNIQUE THEN CHARGES THE VR WITH THE APRIL 10 ARMED ATTACK ON THE WATER WORKS THAT RESULTED IN ONE DEAD AND SEVERAL WOUNDED INCLUDING A GUARDIA CIVIL AGENT. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, INVESTIGATION INTO THAT CASE REVEALED VR COMPLICITY IN THE SEARS BOMBING AND PANAMANIAN EMBASSY INCUDENT. INTERIOR MINISTRY ALSO CHARGED THAT VR WAS PLANNING OTHER TERRORIST ACTS "AGAINST PERSONS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTALLATIONS IN ORDER TO CREATE A CHAOTIC SITUATION." THE NINE VR ACTIVISTS ARRESTED WERE SAID TO

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BE IN POSSESSION OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

3. IN ADDITION TO URBAN TERRORIST ACTS THE INTERIOR MINISTRY CHARGED THE VR AND ITS RURAL ARM, THE PERUVIAN CAMPESINO CONFEDERATION (CCP), WITH LAND INVASIONS IN ANDAHUAYLAS, LIMA, PIURA AND THE DISTRICT OF QUERECOTILLO. MOST RECENT ACTION WAS JUNE 14 CLASH NEAR CANTA (LIMA AREA) RESULTING IN ONE DEATH AND PERHAPS TEN WOUNDED INCLUDING FOUR POLICEMEN. INTERIOR MINISTRY CHARGED THAT TWO SINAMOS EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATED DIRECTLY IN THAT ARMED LAND INVASION AND ARE NOW UNDERGOING INTERROGATION.

4. THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WARNS VR THAT "IN VIEW OF ACTS ALREADY COMMITTED AND ITS FUTURE PLANS," THE GOP IS "DETERMINED TO TAKE SEVERE AND NECESSARY MEASURES AGAINST AGITATORS... OF THIS EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION AND OTHERS LIKE IT WHICH THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION CANNOT TOLERATE."

5. COMMENT. INTERIOR MINISTRY ACTION FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF PRESIDENT VELASCO'S JUNE 16 STATEMENT THAT "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY INFILTRATORS, PERUVIAN AND FOREIGN" ARE WORKING IN THE PRESS. IT ALSO FOLLOWS JUNE 17 DECREE LAW BARRING FOREIGNERS FROM WORKING IN THE GOP INFORMATION SYSTEM COMPRISING OFFICIAL GAZETTE EL PERUANO AND LA CRONICA (WHICH WILL BE RUN DIRECTLY BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCE); THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED NEWS AGENCY; PERUVIAN TELEVISION; AND THOSE RADIO STATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION. FOREIGNERS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA AT PRESENT THEM MUST BE DISMISSED WITHIN 30 DAYS. THEY INCLUDE BRAZILIANS, URUGUAYANS, AND CHILEANS AND ARE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY LEFTISTS.

6. GOP IS CLEARLY DISTURBED BY FAR-LEFT ACTIVITY AND ITS DISRUPTIVE POTENTIAL. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE FAR LEFT HAS SO FAR BEEN SOMEWHAT MEASURED IN THAT VR LEADERS HAVE NOT BEEN ARRESTED (EMBASSY SOURCE HAS SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN BOUGHT OFF) NOR HAS THE ORGANIZATION BEEN PROSCRIBED. SPECIFIC ACTS WERE CONDEMNED AND ONLY THOSE ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE WERE DETAINED.

7. POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CRACKDOWN ON VR IS YET TO BE DETERMINED. EMBASSY SOURCE SYMPATHETIC TO FAR LEFT HAS DESCRIBED ACTION AS BEGINNING OF REPRESSION. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, SIGNAL A REJECTION
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BY GOP OF COMMUNIST SUPPORT OF THE REVOLUTION OR CONFIRM A MOVE TO THE RIGHT. THERE ARE UNDERCURRENTS AND COUNTER-TRENDS OCCURRING SIMULTANEOUSLY. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY COULD EVEN BENEFIT FROM THIS MOVE AGAINST THE FAR LEFT. ITS STRATEGY OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE REVOLUTION, AT THE SAME TIME DISAPPROVING OF SPECIFIC POLICIES, MAY BE SEEN AS THE BEST HOPE FOR THE LEFT IN THE LONG RUN. WHILE THE VR CRACKDOWN

WAS OCCURRING, THE PCP HELD AN OPEN RALLY JUNE 19 IN DOWNTOWN
LIMA IN HONOR OF LATE PERUVIAN MARXIST THEORETICIAN MARIATEGUI.
IT WAS THE FIRST POLITICAL PARTY RALLY IN MONTHS AND GOP
PLACED NO APPARENT RESTRICTIONS ON THE ORGANIZERS. TURNOUT
WAS LOW ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES.
DEAN

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